



TIP OF THE SPEAR

COMMANDANT CALLS FOR REAWAKENING IN THE CORPS



Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, is challenging his emerging and veteran leaders to reinvigorate their leadership skills and commitment to building Marines who embody the Corps' ethos and values. The effort is not a crackdown, but instead a quest to "reawaken the soul of our Corps," as he described it in a letter to Marine generals. Amos' call for a reawakening of the service's core values goes to the heart of the Marine Corps, which perhaps more than any other service is defined by intangibles such as discipline and fighting

spirit. Amos said discipline problems are not widespread, but they pointed to a fraying around the edges that needed to be addressed quickly. "This is a problem with a very small percentage of Marines who aren't living up to standards," Amos said. [Read more](#)

[CMC's Letter to NCOs](#)

[CMC's Letter to GOs](#)

[Also Read: Marine Corps' New Leadership Initiative Takes Fresh Look at Mentoring](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Marines and Sailors with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion's advanced party returned home to the Combat Center Oct. 11. The Marines and Sailors were deployed to Afghanistan for seven months. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya)*



IN THE NEWS

MARINE CORPS FORCE OF 150K IS 'UNVIABLE'



Maj. Gen. Frank McKenzie, the Corps' representative for the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, said a pared-down force of 150,000 would require significant changes across the military services. In September, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, announced plans to move toward a "minimum acceptable" Marine force of 174,000. "Based on our review of the existing requirements today and our best-case projection for 2017, 150K would be an unviable number for the Marines," McKenzie said. At 150,000, the Corps would have difficulty conducting training and would not be able to meet some of its treaty

obligations. At the 174,000 level, the service is still able to preserve and resource many of priority programs. [Read more](#)

USS KEARSARGE LEAVES MIDDLE EAST; BOXER MOVES IN



The USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) along with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit assumed responsibility for the 5th Fleet area, which encompasses the Middle East and northeast Africa, as the USS Kearsarge ARG finished their six-month deployment. The USS Kearsarge ARG gave the U.S. 5th Fleet "options and alternatives for contingency responses, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and theater security cooperation," said Brig. Gen. Gregg Olson, Commander of Task Force 51, which plans for contingency response operations in the region. The new crew of 1,800 Sailors and 2,400 Marines left their San Diego-based home

port in August. [Read more](#)

II MEF HEADQUARTERS TO RELOCATE AS CORPS SHRINKS



In line with the force drawdown and budget constraints, the Marine Corps will relocate more than 90 personnel from the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) command element from Camp Lejeune, N.C. to Norfolk, Va. by 2017. The move will effectively help the Corps slim its forces to 174,000 by the same year -- an annual reduction of about 5,000 Marines. "We're going back to the Marine Corps we had before 9/11," said Maj. Gen. Ray Fox, commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary Force. "The MEF will look very similar to what it did before we started the buildup for Iraq and Afghanistan." [Read more](#)

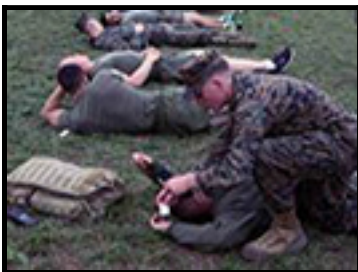
REFLECTING ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIRUT ATTACK



With Oct. 23 marking the 30th anniversary of the suicide bomber attack in Beirut that killed 30 Marines, Americans around the nation remembered and reflected on the day, and the actions that followed. The Americans and French were in Beirut as part of an international peacekeeping force sent to quell the violence from the Lebanese Civil War. The debate on how to respond to the attack ultimately ended with the decision against any further entanglement. Over the past 30 years, this passive approach towards terrorism is something the US has strayed away from according to Warren Kozak, author of "LeMay: The Life and Wars of General Curtis

LeMay." [Read more](#)

BSRF-14 EXECUTE DRILL TO SUSTAIN MEDICAL CAPABILITIES



Marines and Sailors with Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 14 participated in a mass-casualty drill Oct. 14 to further prepare themselves for their mission of being the crisis-contingency force in the Eastern European region. The drill started when Marines playing soccer encountered a simulated suicide bomber, injuring 36 Marines. "It [was] a realistic scenario to test overall readiness for our [corpsmen], and it also outlines the possibilities of enemies about to attack at any time," said 1st Lt. Michael Phillips, a platoon commander with BSRF-14. The force will continue performance of drills to forge unit cohesion and implicit

MARINES, SAILORS, SOLDIERS TAKE PART IN PLATINUM LYNX



Marines and Sailors with Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 14 conducted training with Romanian soldiers from the 812th Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Bistrita, Romania, Oct. 7 to 12. The exercise, Platinum Lynx, kicked-off with an opening ceremony to begin the engagement and partnership between U.S. and Romanian forces. Throughout the week, the group conducted mounted and dismounted patrols, a platoon live-fire exercise, movement-to-contact. "It builds a longer lasting relationship so we'll know how to work together," said Cpl. Roderic Liggins, "now it won't be so difficult for them to understand the way we do things, and for us to understand the way that they do things." [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

OCTOBER 28, 1962

An 11,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade left Camp Pendleton by sea for the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis. One week earlier, the entire 189,000-man Marine Corps had been put on alert and elements of the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions were sent to Guantanamo Bay to reinforce the defenders of the U.S. Naval Base. Other 2nd Division units and squadrons from five Marine Aircraft Groups were deployed at Key West, Florida, or in Caribbean waters during the Cuban crisis.



SEMPER FI

NEVADA SCHOOL SHOOTING 'HERO' WAS FORMER MARINE



Middle school math teacher Michael Landsberry, a former Marine, was killed Oct. 21 while shielding students from a boy with a gun in a Nevada middle school. Witnesses said the suspect first opened fire on the basketball court, where he shot a boy in the arm. Landsberry tried to talk the student down, allowing for other students to flee from the court. "That was the kind of person that Michael was," his brother, Reggie Landsberry, said. "He was the kind of person that if somebody needed help, he would be there." Two students were shot and wounded before the boy with the gun was killed. [Read more](#)



THE CORPS REPORT

The Corps Report Ep. 24 - The Corps' Reawakening and Remembering the Beirut Bombing

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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